United Nations S/2000/963

Security Council

Distr.: General
7 October 2000

Original: English

Bangladesh, Jamaica, Malaysia, Mali, Namibia, Tunisia and Ukraine: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling its resolutions 476 (1980) of 30 June 1980, 478 (1980) of 20 August 1980, 672 (1990) of 12 October 1990, and 1073 (1996) of 28 September 1996, and all its other relevant resolutions,

Deeply concerned by the tragic events that have taken place since 28 September 2000, that have led to numerous deaths and injuries, mostly among Palestinians,

Reaffirming that a just and lasting solution to the Arab and Israeli conflict must be based on its resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967 and 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973, through an active negotiating process,

Expressing its support for the Middle East peace process and the efforts to reach a final settlement between the Israeli and Palestinian sides and *urging* the two sides to cooperate in these efforts,

Reaffirming the need for full respect by all of the Holy Places of the City of Jerusalem, and *condemning* any behaviour to the contrary,

1. *Deplores* the provocation carried out at Al-Haram Al-Sharif in Jerusalem on 28 September 2000, and the subsequent violence there and at other Holy Places, as well as in other areas throughout the territories occupied by Israel since 1967, resulting in over 80 Palestinian deaths and many other casualties;

2. *Condemns* acts of violence, especially the excessive use of force against Palestinians, resulting in injury and loss of human life;

3. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to abide scrupulously by its legal obligations and its responsibilities under the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949;

4. *Calls for* the immediate cessation of violence, and for all necessary steps to be taken to ensure that violence ceases, that new provocative actions are avoided, and that the situation returns to normality in a way which promotes the prospects for the Middle East peace process;

5. *Stresses* the importance of establishing a mechanism for a speedy and objective inquiry into the tragic events of the last few days with the aim of preventing their repetition, and *welcomes* any efforts in this regard;

00-67931 (E) 071000

6. *Calls for* the immediate resumption of negotiations within the Middle East peace process on its agreed basis with the aim of achieving an early final settlement between the Israeli and Palestinian sides;

7. *Invites* the Secretary-General to continue to follow the situation and to keep the Council informed;

8. *Decides* to follow closely the situation and to remain seized of the matter.

United Nations S/2000/964

Security Council

Distr.: General
5 October 2000

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Letter dated 4 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

It would be remembered that the Turkish minority, owing to the delay occurring in the preparation of documents to reflect the understanding reached between the Turkish community representatives and the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), was not able to complete their registration, and hence could not take part in the local elections in Kosovo. This issue was addressed during the Kosovo open briefings at the Security Council on 24 August and 27 September 2000.

However, remarks made by United Nations representatives on this issue in the Council briefings did not fully reflect the real nature of this question, nor did the comments on this matter contained in section II of your report of 18 September 2000 on UNMIK (S/2000/878).

To be precise, the insistence of the Turkish community in Kosovo is to preserve their legitimate and acquired rights and is not an excessive drive by some splinter group as described in the Kosovo briefings of the United Nations authorities and in the report. The Turkish community in Kosovo wishes that these rights would be well and properly secured, and that the equal status of the Turkish language, with Albanian and Serbian, as stipulated in the 1974 Constitution, would be honoured.

Thus, the incomplete comments on the "non-participation", as such, of the Turkish community in Kosovo in the local elections are likely to cause confusion in the minds of the international community about the legitimate demands of the Kosovo Turks.

As a matter of fact, when endeavours were under way to establish an interim administration in Kosovo, the representatives of the Turkish community of Kosovo sought the preservation of the acquired rights of the Turks in Kosovo and sent a joint letter to UNMIK, asking, as a national minority, the acknowledgement of those acquired rights. Their requests received no adequate response for several months.

Indeed, it was only in the last stage of the registration process for participating in the elections that UNMIK recognized the need to consider the demands of the Turkish minority. The initial intention of UNMIK was to make some modifications in its policy towards the Kosovo Turks through a document presented to the Kosovo Turkish community. These were not found to be satisfactory by the community's representatives.

00-67739 (E) 061000

At that point, Turkey offered its contribution in order to help find a solution and invited the representatives of the Kosovo Turks and Bernard Kouchner, head of UNMIK, to Ankara to conduct a meaningful dialogue. The content of the document was discussed and a mutual understanding was reached in Ankara between İsmail Cem, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkey, and Dr. Kouchner. Accordingly, the Kosovo Turks would have been able to register themselves once the agreed text was issued. Later, however, UNMIK unilaterally took steps to make substantial changes in the agreed text concerning the status of the Turkish language and the provision giving the Turkish minority the right to register.

In a spirit of compromise, given the state of affairs in Kosovo, the Turkish minority gave its consent to the revised version. The document, outlining the rights of the Turkish minority, was to be issued to the Turkish community promptly. That was not done. And in the meantime precious time was lost, as a result of which the Kosovo Turks were told that it was too late for them to register.

Later on, following the talks between Foreign Minister Cem and you, which took place in New York, Dr. Kouchner agreed to send a letter to the political representatives of the Turkish minority. The document, outlining guarantees envisaged for the rights of the Turkish minority, was sent by Dr. Kouchner to the President of the Turkish Democratic Party along with a letter dated 15 September 2000, a copy of which is enclosed herewith (see annex).

I thank you for your and Dr. Kouchner's personal efforts, and believe that this letter will serve as a framework in safeguarding the rights of the Turkish community in Kosovo. We see it as an initial yet significant step in a process through which the Turkish community will be able to exercise its acquired rights and take part fully in the elected and administrative bodies of Kosovo.

I believe that now is the time to act on this agreed framework, as Dr. Kouchner himself mentioned in the meeting of the Friends of Kosovo Group, regarding his letter to the Turkish community.

I would like to assure you that Turkey will continue to bring forth its constructive efforts and follow with meticulous and unwavering interest the implementation of the principles and elements laid down in Dr. Kouchner's text addressed to the Turkish community, as well as the process of laying down the foundations for security and stability in Kosovo.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

I avail myself of this opportunity to confirm our firm support to your tireless efforts to secure peace and prosperity for humanity.

(*Signed*) Ümit **Pamir**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 4 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Pristina, 15 September 2000

Following our fruitful discussions during the month of August 2000, I am sending to you the text entitled "To the Turkish Community", which outlines the main principles and ideas, as well as some operational steps, that UNMIK will develop in order to guarantee the rights of the Turkish community in Kosovo.

As you know, I am fully committed to guaranteeing equal rights to the members of all the communities in Kosovo. In the pursuit of such goal, UNMIK will continue to place a high priority on the dialogue with the representatives of the Turkish community at all levels. This dialogue should also include the exchange of ideas between the representatives of your community and representatives of several Joint Interim Administrative Structure administrative departments and units, which will be responsible for the progressive implementation of the principles and steps outlined in the document "To the Turkish Community".

(*Signed*) Bernard **Kouchner**
Special Representative of the Secretary-General

Enclosure

To the Turkish Community

The United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) reiterates its commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights, as mandated in paragraph 11 (j) of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999. In particular, UNMIK is committed to upholding international human rights standards relating to the protection of ethnic, religious or linguistic communities. To this end, UNMIK enacts legislation, policies and practices aiming at the creation of appropriate conditions enabling all communities to express, preserve and develop their national, cultural, religious and linguistic identities.

In pursuit of this aim, UNMIK is taking steps to guarantee the Turkish community in Kosovo their rights as referred to in the 1974 Kosovo Constitution. UNMIK reaffirms the equality of the Turkish community with the Albanian community, the Serbian community and all other communities, including the equality of their languages. This principle will be reaffirmed in a relevant regulation. The implementation of this principle shall be regulated and ensured by UNMIK regulations. UNMIK shall fully and fairly involve members of the Turkish community, as well as members of all other communities, in the preparation of future arrangements for the establishment of provisional institutions in Kosovo for the interim period.

1. UNMIK recognizes the right of members of the Turkish community to use their language and alphabet equally with the Albanian and Serbian languages in the municipalities where the Turkish community lives. More specifically, in line with the provisions contained in the draft regulation on self-government of municipalities in Kosovo, UNMIK will ensure, within these municipalities:

(a) The right of members of the Turkish community to use their own language in relations with the municipal authorities;

(b) That all official documents of the municipality (including birth certificates, death certificates, marriage certificates, diplomas, etc.) will be made available in the Turkish language and alphabet;

(c) That the meetings of the Municipal Assembly and its committees and public meetings shall be translated into Turkish language where appropriate;

(d) That official signs indicating or including the names of cities, towns, villages, roads, streets and other public places shall also be given names in Turkish language and alphabet.

2. Furthermore, any member of the Turkish community who is a party to a court proceeding shall have the right to use the Turkish language and to have the court proceedings translated if the proceedings are not conducted in the Turkish language.

3. Within the municipalities where the Turkish community lives, the members of the Turkish community shall have the right to instruction in the Turkish language within the framework of the general education system of Kosovo.

4. UNMIK regulations shall be issued in Turkish as well where the Turkish community lives.

5. Documents issued at the central level, such as travel documents and identification cards, will display the surnames and first names of members of the Turkish community in the Turkish language and alphabet. In pursuit of this aim, the relevant database has been specifically modified. For members of the Turkish community, on their request, UNMIK shall issue as soon as possible identification cards with the legend also in the Turkish language.

6. Regarding the registration process where the Turkish community lives:

(a) Duplicates of the civil registration forms in the Turkish language and alphabet have been made available to facilitate the registration procedure;

(b) A Turkish business registration application form was approved by the Business Registration Unit on 13 June 2000;

(c) Information material on the registration process has been available in the Turkish language.

7. UNMIK stresses the importance of the full participation of the Turkish community in the political mechanisms in Kosovo, through the available instruments, such as the registration for, and voting in, the upcoming municipal elections. In fact, in any democratic society, the active involvement of a community in public life remains the most effective manner in which that community can guarantee enjoyment of all its civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

United Nations S/2000/965

Security Council

Distr.: General
6 October 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 6 October 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have been instructed by my Government to lodge the strongest protest at the opening of the liaison office of the Republic of Albania in Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia, and its subsequent intention to upgrade it into a centre of Albanian subversive activities against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

In lodging the protest I recall that I already drew the attention of the Security Council to this matter in my letters of 2 and 3 August 2000 (S/2000/757 and S/2000/765) under the cover of which I transmitted the protest of my Government at the illegal introduction of Regulation No. 2000/42 on the establishment and functioning of foreign liaison offices in Kosovo and Metohija by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and head of UNMIK on 10 June 2000 and the fact that the Republic of Albania characterized the opening of its liaison office, effected on the basis of the regulation, as the establishment of diplomatic relations between Albania and Kosovo and Metohija.

According to the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation of 27 September 2000, the Republic of Albania intends to strengthen the office by the addition of another diplomat and three experts in charge of cooperation in the field of economy, culture and education to the head of the office, who has already taken his post. It transpires that the purpose of the office is not to maintain liaison with UNMIK, as claimed by the Special Representative and head of UNMIK at the time of his consent to the opening of the office.

Of particular significance is the statement of the head of the "office" to the effect that the "mission" could be further strengthened and transformed into a diplomatic representative office which would render an "inter-State character" to the relations of Albania and Kosovo and Metohija. The statement reveals the true intentions of the Republic of Albania and is correspondent with the goals of ethnic Albanian terrorist separatists in Kosovo and Metohija: the secession of this Serbian province from Serbia and its inclusion into Greater Albania. Needless to say, the diplomatic piracy is contrary to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999 and will only strengthen the hand of ethnic Albania separatism. It also constitutes a gross violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law and a blatant attack on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of a sovereign neighbouring State.

00-67875 (E) 091000

This act is just a reflection of a string of similar expansionist manifestations of the Republic of Albania in recent years. Albania is the only State Member of the United Nations that recognized the so-called "Republic of Kosovo" by a decision of its Parliament in October 1992, while two representative offices of that phantom Republic have been allowed to function in Tirana ever since. The "Platform for the Solution of the Albanian National Question", considered by the Albanian Parliament on the occasion of the adoption of the decision, contains open aspirations towards parts of the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Albania provided refuge to the terrorists of the so-called Kosovo Liberation Army in its territory, established boot camps to train their recruits and provided a logistic base for their raids inside the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. In the interview to the Vienna daily *Die Presse* of 12 September 2000, the Albanian Prime Minister stated that Kosovo and Metohija had been severed from Serbia once and for all and that it could not be its province any more.

In allowing the Republic of Albania to open the "liaison office", the Special Representative and head of UNMIK has once again turned a blind eye to the policy of hostility that the Republic of Albania conducts towards the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, its responsibility for the situation in this Serbian province and the fact that Yugoslavia has no diplomatic relations with the Republic of Albania. In that way, he has made the whole United Nations mission a function of ethnic Albanian separatism and the expansionism of the Republic of Albania.

Bearing in mind the aforementioned, the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia calls on the Security Council to annul the decision of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and head of UNMIK to allow the Republic of Albania to establish the liaison office which will only serve the goals of furthering its illegitimate and hostile claims against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vladislav **Jovanovic**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

United Nations S/2000/966

Security Council

Distr.: General
6 October 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 6 October 2000 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) concerning Sierra Leone addressed to the President of the Security Council

On behalf of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) concerning Sierra Leone, I have the honour to inform you that the Government of Sierra Leone, in compliance with paragraph 2 of Council resolution 1306 (2000), submitted to the Committee, on 4 August and 20 September 2000, a proposed new mining, export and monitoring regime for rough and uncut diamonds from Sierra Leone, together with a draft new forgery-proof Certificate of Origin document and a copy of the Mines and Minerals (Amendments) Act of 1999.

In this connection, and in accordance with paragraph 5 of Security Council resolution 1306 (2000), the Committee, after careful consideration of the aforementioned request at its 16th and 18th meetings, held on 9 August and 29 September 2000, has no objection to the procedures to be implemented by the Government of Sierra Leone. Therefore, pursuant to paragraph 5 of Council resolution 1306 (2000), rough diamonds controlled by the Government of Sierra Leone through the Certificate of Origin regime shall be exempt from the measures imposed in paragraph 1 of the resolution. The Committee has requested the Government of Sierra Leone to disseminate samples of certificates and other related appropriate material before the resumption of diamond exports from Sierra Leone. The Government of Sierra Leone has also indicated that, after a trial period of approximately 90 days, it will notify the Committee on the effectiveness of the new regime in place. In this regard, the Committee will keep the Council informed accordingly.

I would appreciate it if this letter could be brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Anwarul Karim **Chowdhury**
Chairman
Security Council Committee established pursuant
to resolution 1132 (1997) concerning Sierra Leone

00-67869 (E) 061000

United Nations S/2000/967

Security Council

Distr.: General
9 October 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 6 October 2000 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to convey the attached communication, dated 6 October 2000, which I have received from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. **Annan**

00-68079 (E) 091000

Annex

Letter dated 6 October 2000 from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with Security Council resolution 1088 (1996), I attach the monthly report on operations of the Stabilization Force (see appendix). I would appreciate your making this report available to the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Lord **Robertson** of Port Ellen

Appendix

Monthly report to the Security Council on operations of the Stabilization Force

1. Approximately 23,300 troops were deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia during the reporting period (13 August-12 September), with contributions from all the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies and from 15 non-NATO countries. The Stabilization Force (SFOR) troops continued to conduct surveillance and reconnaissance operations by ground and air patrols. Operations included providing area security, monitoring the border with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, monitoring the entity armed forces, conducting weapons storage site inspections, providing support to the international organizations in theatre and collecting weapons and ammunition in the framework of Operation Harvest.

2. On 8 September, Lieutenant General Dodson assumed command of SFOR from the outgoing commander, Lieutenant General Adams.

3. SFOR troops continued to monitor compliance with the provisions of Security Council resolution 1160 (1998), which prohibits the transport of weapons into the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia by providing an intensified presence on the ground. No violations were reported.

4. On 28 August in Kiseljak (Multi-National Division South-East), SFOR troops supported the United Nations International Police Task Force (IPTF) and Federal Ministry of the Interior police during the successful arrest of Dominik Ilijasevic, a Croat suspected of both criminal activities and war crimes.[a] On 11 September, in the Mostar area, SFOR again supported Federal Ministry of the Interior police in the arrest of a suspected criminal, Basic Zoran.

5. During the period, SFOR troops continued to monitor the movement of controlled petroleum products into the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia by establishing traffic-control points. No violations were reported.

Cooperation and compliance by the parties

6. The situation in theatre remained calm and stable overall, with the entities in substantial compliance with the military provisions of the Peace Agreement. The town of Kozluk, in Multi-National Division (North), was the scene of a minor demonstration on 17 August, when Bosnian Serbs demonstrated against evictions in the area to make way for Bosniac returnees. Bosniac returnees to the town were themselves harassed during the period, and there were a number of incidents of rock throwing.

7. During the period, SFOR troops conducted 143 inspections of military weapon storage sites. No violations were reported.

8. SFOR troops monitored a total of 1,228 training and movement activities: 578 Bosnian Serb, 366 Bosniac, 119 Bosnian Croat and 165 Federation.

9. Between 13 August and 12 September, SFOR monitored 754 demining activities carried out by the entity armed forces. The fifth session of the summer

demining season ended on 5 September. To date, a total of 570,000 square metres of land has been cleared in 2000, an increase of 200,000 square metres over last year.

Cooperation with international organizations

10. Within its capabilities and in accordance with its mandate, SFOR continues to provide assistance to the international organizations in theatre, including the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, IPTF, the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the Office of the High Representative, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

11. SFOR continues to support the Office of the High Representative in the establishment of joint institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina. At the meeting of the Standing Committee on Military Matters on 22 August, the secretariat's work plan for the coming six months was approved. Entity representatives confirmed that they were on track to achieve the promised 15 per cent force reductions by the end of 2000.

12. SFOR support to OSCE for the 11 November municipal elections will include enhanced security operations with a rapid-response capability, limited equipment support, pre-election supervisor training, exchange of liaison officers and 24-hour joint operational centre staffing, at both SFOR and OSCE.

Outlook

13. Isolated acts of violence can be expected, including against SFOR and the international community, especially in connection with the return of refugees and displaced persons.

Notes

[a] The Russian Federation confirms its special position on this matter.

United Nations S/2000/968

Security Council

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6 October 2000
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 5 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 3 October 2000 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. The Minister calls attention to the ongoing wanton aggression against Iraq by United States and British aircraft in the unlawful no-flight zones and to the fact that in the period from 24 to 30 September 2000 they carried out 298 sorties, 174 of them from Saudi Arabia, 58 from Kuwait and 66 from Turkey.

The Minister urges intervention with the governments of the United States and the United Kingdom and with the countries participating in this aggression, namely Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey, with a view to inducing them to halt their aggression and to respect the norms of international law and the sovereignty of Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-67881 (E) 091000 091000

Annex to the identical letters dated 5 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I should like to inform you that United States and British warplanes based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey have continued to violate the airspace of the Republic of Iraq. They carried out 298 sorties in the period from 24 to 30 September 2000, 174 of them from Saudi Arabia, 58 from Kuwait and 66 from Turkey, as shown hereunder.

1. In the northern region 66 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1120 hours on 25 September 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 26 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Zakho, Irbil, Ayn Sifni and Rawanduz areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1420 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1135 hours on 26 September 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 20 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Baibo, Zakho, Irbil and Rawanduz areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1505 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1120 hours on 27 September 2000, United States and British F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 20 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Zakho, Irbil and Rawanduz areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1420 hours, drove them off.

2. In the southern region 232 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1005 hours on 24 September 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 46 missions, 32 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 14 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Amarah, Artawi, Qal'at Salih, Diwaniyah, Qal'at Sukkar, Mashkhab, Salman, Najaf, Samawah, Nasiriyah and Lasaf areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1400 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 0825 hours on 26 September 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti

territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 46 missions, 30 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 16 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Ashbajah, Shinafiyah, Diwaniyah, Mashkhab, Jalibah, Salman, Hayy, Shatrah, Afak, Umm Qasr, Samawah, Nasiriyah and Lasaf areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1205 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 0920 hours on 27 September 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 30 missions, 26 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and four from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Samawah, Salman, Diwaniyah, Nasiriyah, Amarah and Qurnah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1420 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1145 hours on 28 September 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 28 missions, 24 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and four from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Samawah, Salman, Ashbajah, Lasaf, Najaf, Nukhayb, Diwaniyah, Nasiriyah, Amarah and Qurnah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1445 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 1100 hours on 29 September 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 36 missions, 24 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 12 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Samawah, Salman, Lasaf, Taqtaqanah, Shinafiyah, Diwaniyah, Qal'at Salih, Hayy, Nasiriyah, Amarah and Qurnah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1345 hours, drove them off.

(f) At 1045 hours on 30 September 2000, United States and British F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 46 missions, 38 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and eight from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Artawi, Jalibah, Salman, Ashbajah, Nasiriyah, Lasaf, Qal'at Salih, Amarah, Shatrah, Rifa'i, Qal'at Sukkar, Samawah, Shinafiyah, Mashkhab and Taqtaqanah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1335 hours, drove them off.

This aggression illustrates the bellicose attitude being maintained by the United States of America and the United Kingdom towards Iraq. Since 1992, it has

become a fixed policy aimed at undermining the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and at the systematic and concerted destruction of Iraqi lives, infrastructure and civilian installations. It is a policy that has been affirmed in successive statements made by United States and British officials seeking to defend the measures being taken to enforce the no-flight zones.

The Government of Iraq categorically rejects the two so-called no-flight zones, which were imposed by unilateral decision of the United States of America and the United Kingdom and lack any legal basis. Iraq rejects all the consequences of this illegal decision and, in particular, the flimsy excuses and pretexts used by these countries in an attempt to justify their military aggression against our country.

The logistic support provided by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey to the Americans and the British makes these countries key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they bear international responsibility for actions that are deleterious to the people of Iraq.

The Government of Iraq, condemning these acts of aggression against civilian targets and Iraqi civilian installations, urges the Security Council to perform its assigned duties with respect to the maintenance of international peace and security by intervening with the governments of the countries in question with a view to inducing them to halt, end and desist from any resumption of their constant and unwarranted aggression against an independent, sovereign State.

(*Signed*) Mohammed Saeid **Al-Sahaf**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq

United Nations S/2000/969

Security Council

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7 October 2000

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Letter dated 7 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

During the last 24 hours, there has been a drastic and dangerous deterioration in the already sensitive and tense situation in the Middle East, this time at the border between Israel and Lebanon. Acts of aggression perpetrated against Israel from Lebanese territory during this period have created a grave and serious threat to international peace and security in the region.

On Saturday morning, 7 October 2000, an armed and frenzied mob, numbering in the hundreds, attacked the border fence from Lebanese territory, immediately followed by heavy shelling of Israeli border positions by Hizballah terrorist elements from Lebanese territory, using explosives, rocket-propelled grenades, Sager missiles and border shells. During the course of this aggression, three Israeli soldiers were kidnapped by a Hizballah unit which had entered Israeli territory for this purpose. These Israelis are being held hostage by Hizballah inside Lebanon. Acts of aggression against Israel have continued throughout the day.

Israel views this act of aggression with the utmost gravity and as a gross violation of the Charter of the United Nations, fundamental principles of international law and Security Council resolution 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978, pursuant to which Israel withdrew its forces from Lebanese territory.

Since its withdrawal from Lebanese territory, Israel has repeatedly called upon the Government of Lebanon to fulfil its obligations under international law, and as demanded in resolution 425 (1978), to restore, with the assistance of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), its effective control over South Lebanon and ensure that international peace and security are maintained on its side of the border. Despite these pleas, the Government of Lebanon has failed for months to restrain, and has even encouraged, provocative and violent cross-border attacks against Israel. Continued diplomatic attempts, on the part of Israel, to warn that the situation on the northern border could deteriorate have gone unheeded. In this regard, I should like to recall the letters dated 6 July (S/2000/661), 13 July (S/2000/689), 4 August (S/2000/769) and 15 August 2000 (S/2000/805), in which Israel brought to the attention of the Secretary-General the continued wave of Lebanese violations along the border, and the potential that those acts might destabilize the border area and imperil the maintenance of international peace and security.

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Israel holds the Governments of Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic fully and directly responsible for the acts of aggression described above. Israel calls on the Security Council to act urgently in accordance with its primary responsibility for international peace and security to secure the immediate and safe return of the Israeli hostages and the cessation of all aggressive activity from Lebanese territory against Israel.

I wish to request that the present letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yehuda **Lancry**
Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations

United Nations A/55/460–S/2000/970

General Assembly
Security Council

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7 October 2000

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session
Agenda items 32, 33 and 40

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations

Culture of peace

The situation in the Middle East

Letter dated 7 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In the 1995 Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip (A/51/889-S/1997/357, annex) the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) agreed that Jewish holy sites in the areas under the administration of the Palestinian Authority would be duly respected and protected.

Agreed arrangements regarding the ancient Jewish holy site known as Joseph's Tomb, located in the West Bank town of Nablus, included the continued presence of Israelis at the site, and the preservation of existing religious practices.

During the course of the violence, incitement and rioting in the West Bank over the course of the past week, the Jewish holy site of Joseph's Tomb became a target of gunfire and violent attacks, both by mobs of Palestinian civilians, as well as armed militia and members of the Palestinian police, in stark and blatant violation of all agreements with Israel. This even led to the death of an Israeli police officer on duty within the site, after Palestinian officials refused to allow his safe evacuation when he had been severely wounded by Palestinian gunfire.

With a view to reducing tension, an agreement was reached on 6 October 2000, between the Israeli Defense Forces and the Palestinian police, whereby the Israeli personnel on duty in the Tomb would be removed from the site, as a temporary measure, and the Palestinian Authority would ensure its continued protection and preservation.

With the removal of the Israeli personnel, in accordance with this agreement, frenzied Palestinians, together with members of the Palestinian police, entered the site, set it ablaze, sacked it, violated it and commenced dismantling the historic and sacred structure of the Tomb.

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The Government and people of Israel, and Jews throughout the world, are outraged at this insufferable act of sacrilege directed against the most fundamental sources and tenets of the Jewish religion, and of civilized society. Israel holds the Palestinian leadership fully responsible for this sacrilege in the light of its unending incitement and encouragement of mob violence in the area.

Israel calls upon the civilized international community to condemn this action, with the utmost gravity, and exert its influence on the Palestinian leadership in order to prevent continued violation of this sacred site, and to enable its immediate repair, reconstruction and rededication. Israel further appeals to religious and political leaders throughout the world to demand that the Palestinian leadership ensure respect for other religions and for fundamental norms of civilized behaviour.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 32, 33 and 40, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yehuda **Lancry**
Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations

United Nations A/55/466-S/2000/971

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Security Council

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General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session
Agenda items 36, 40, 41 and 85

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

Bethlehem 2000

The situation in the Middle East

Question of Palestine

Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

Identical letters dated 9 October 2000 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

In follow-up to my three recent letters, dated 29 September, 2 October and 4 October 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921, A/55/437-S/2000/930 and A/55/450-S/2000/957), I regret to inform you once more that Israel, the occupying Power, continues with its campaign of terror against the Palestinian people and continues to massacre and injure more and more Palestinian civilians. Israel, the occupying Power, continues to do so even after the adoption of Security Council resolution 1322 (2000) of 7 October 2000.

In the period since my last letter until Sunday, 8 October, Israeli security forces killed 31 more Palestinians, bringing the total number of deaths to 76. (The names of the martyrs are annexed to the present letter.) I would also like to bring to your attention the fact that recently illegal Israeli settlers in the Occupied Territory have been committing criminal acts against Palestinian civilians. The settlers have repeatedly engaged in harassment, violence and killings of Palestinian civilians, including the torture and murder of Issam Jodeh Hammad, whom they killed on the night of Sunday, 8 October. His body was then dumped in an area close to Ramallah and was found today Monday, 9 October. The Israeli security forces have also injured hundreds more Palestinians, many of whom remain in critical condition.

In addition to the above, I would also like to address the issue of Youssef's Tomb near Nablus. It is important to note that Israel, the occupying Power, has effectively transformed the place into a military post. In the past few days, 18 Palestinians were killed by the Israeli security forces at that place, which explains

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the amount of anger felt by the population leading to the destruction that occurred after the withdrawal of the Israeli security forces. In any case, the Palestinian side has already taken action to repair the original part of the place and to provide for effective protection.

I am also compelled to bring to your attention the continuation of the horrible acts being committed against Israeli Arabs in Israel itself. A historic mosque in Tiberias, Galilee, was desecrated and set ablaze, further escalating tensions. In Nazareth, a mob of 1,000 Israelis attacked the inhabitants, killing 2, which brings the number of deaths of Israeli Arabs to a total of 13, in addition to the injury of many others.

It is imperative for the international community, especially the Security Council, to ensure compliance with Council resolution 1322 (2000) in a way that will ensure the end of the Israeli terror campaign and open the door to a better future.

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 36, 40, 41 and 85, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nasser **Al-Kidwa**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

Annex to the identical letters dated 9 October 2000 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

Names of martyrs killed by Israeli security forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem (Wednesday, 4 October-Sunday, 8 October 2000)

Tuesday, 3 October 2000

Ramez Abbas Bushnaq (name not included in letter of 4 October 2000)

Wednesday, 4 October 2000

1. Sharif Faraj Ashour
2. Mohammed Fawzi Al-Sirfi
3. Mohmoud Al-Amwasi
4. Mohammed Yussef Abu Assi (9 years old)
5. Ala Hassan Al-Barghou i
6. Ayman Akram Al-Lowh
7. Mohanned Wadia Fares
8. Mohmoud Lutfi Massed
9. Arafat Mahmoud Al-Atrash

Thursday, 5 October 2000

1. Salameh Saleh Ziadat
2. Mahmoud Saleh Sbeiti
3. Mustafa Mohmoud Al-Fararjeh

Friday, 6 October 2000

1. Luai Abdullah Al-Mukayad
2. Iyad Abed Al-Haleem Eshtaya
3. Dhia Abed Al-Rahman Isa
4. Mohammad Khalid Tamam
5. Marwan Abdel Al-Razik Shamalakh
6. Saleh Isa Al-Riyati
7. Majdi Sameer Al-Muslamani (15 years old)
8. Wajed Mussa Abu Awad
9. Zuheir Rizik Darabiah
10. Rashad Ismail Al-Najar

Saturday, 7 October 2000

1. Mohammed Khalid Awad
2. Hisham Ahmad Muqbil
3. Fahed Mustafa Baker

Sunday, 8 October 2000

1. Yussef Thiab Khalaf (17 years old)
2. Abdel Al-Hameed Taya Zeq
3. Omar Mohammed Akawi
4. Wisam Hamdan Yazbuk
5. Ali Sayel Swedan
6. Issam Jodeh Hammad

United Nations S/2000/972

Security Council

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Original: Arabic

Letter dated 5 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I refer to the letter dated 15 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to you (S/2000/808), which conveyed the Government of Iraq's response to my letter dated 9 June 2000 addressed to you with my Government's denial of Iraq's allegations that our patrols had engaged in hostile acts against Iraqi boatmen (S/2000/556).

On instructions from my Government, I should like in this connection to reiterate that the assertions made by the Iraqi Government in its letter are contrary to reality and that they represent a naive attempt to evade responsibility for its own acts of aggression. As they categorically deny these allegations that have been fabricated by the Iraqi regime, the relevant authorities in Kuwait stress the non-probative character of the contents of the videotape in question. There is nothing on the tape to indicate that the persons who committed the acts shown were members of the Kuwaiti coast guard or that the place in which the alleged attack took place was in Kuwaiti territory. Time and again, the Iraqi regime has made a habit of propagating such calumnies in an endeavour to distort the facts and with the aim of creating instability and tension in the region.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammad A. **Abulhasan**
Permanent Representative

00-68116 (E) 101000 101000

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General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session
Agenda items 42 and 110

Special session of the General Assembly in 2001 for follow-up to the World Summit for Children

Promotion and protection of the rights of children

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

Letter dated 6 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the pleasure of enclosing the Agenda for War-Affected Children, which was negotiated and adopted by the 130 Governments present at the International Conference on War-Affected Children, held at Winnipeg, Canada, from 10 to 17 September 2000.

In the past decade alone, wars have claimed the lives of over 2 million children, and have left another 5 million physically disabled. More than 10 million children continue to be traumatized by the violence they have witnessed or in which they have participated. During conflict and often in the post-conflict period, children lose access to basic social services such as health care and education. Many children end up as refugees or displaced. Others are forcibly recruited into armies, or join them voluntarily — there are currently about 300,000 child soldiers participating in conflicts around the world. Millions become orphans, and older children are left to look after their younger siblings. A disproportionate number of children, especially boys, are injured by landmines; girls run a risk of being sexually exploited. The Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Optional Protocols on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and other international instruments elaborate the rights and protections of war-affected children.

To make further progress on these commitments, Canada hosted the International Conference on War-Affected Children. Graça Machel, author of the seminal study entitled "The impact of armed conflict on children", was honorary chair of the event. Your personal support for the Winnipeg Conference and the instrumental roles played by your Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, Olara Otunnu, and the Executive Director of UNICEF, Carol Bellamy,

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were critical factors in the success of the meeting. The Agenda adopted at Winnipeg establishes the political framework to guide the efforts of the international community to ensure more effective implementation of the rights and protections of war-affected children.

For this reason, I should be grateful if you could circulate the text of this letter and the attached Agenda for War-Affected Children as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 42 and 110, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Paul **Heinbecker**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 6 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Agenda for War-Affected Children

(done at Winnipeg, Canada, 17 September 2000)

Societies have a moral obligation to put their children first, in times of peace and especially in times of war. Each child has the right to support and protection without distinction.

Conflict has the potential to forever change a child's aspirations and capabilities by subjecting him or her to horrific physical, psychological, sexual and societal violence. While children have widely differing needs, experiences, and challenges during and post-conflict, no child emerges unscarred and unaffected from situations where killings, indiscriminate bombings, recruitment, torture, rape, sexual exploitation, forced labour, abductions, sickness and malnutrition are a constant threat, and where education and nurture rarely exist. The international community must address this issue decisively, in accordance with the purposes and principles enshrined in the *Charter of the United Nations*. There is no circumstance in which it is justifiable to deliberately target children in situations of armed conflict.

The *Convention on the Rights of the Child* and other powerful regional and international legal instruments, including the 1951 *Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol* and the *Geneva Conventions of 1949* and the *Additional Protocols thereto of 1977* have been put in place to protect the rights and welfare of all war-affected children. Notable recent advances include the *Optional Protocol on Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography* and *ILO Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour*.

What is needed now are concerted efforts to breathe life into the principles and obligations enshrined in these instruments through widespread ratification, effective implementation and international cooperation. The results of this Conference should provide building blocks for concrete initiatives for consideration at the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children in 2001.

It is time for states, institutions and individuals around the world to show leadership in word and in deed. The depth of our commitment *today* to immediate action with and on behalf of war-affected girls and boys will determine their *future* commitment to peace.

Our commitment to this Agenda at local, national, regional and international levels is a commitment to children. Let us make this century a peaceful one, in which the rights of the child are respected, protected and promoted everywhere.

1. **Call for Leadership:** Safeguarding children and protecting their rights in situations of armed conflict requires political, moral, economic, and social leadership. It also demands the courage to shape a new consensus regarding the treatment of war-affected children. Leaders at all levels and in every sector of society - government, the private sector, civil society, international and regional organizations - must rise to the challenge to fulfill their responsibilities to protect children. Leadership must also be fostered directly within girls and boys, their families and their communities, to build their will and capacity to resolve and prevent conflict.

2. **Fulfill Obligations:** All states and other parties to armed conflict must respect fully their obligations to children affected by conflict under international human rights and humanitarian law. States are invited to sign, ratify and subsequently implement the *Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict* and *Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography*, and to consider or reconsider becoming parties to conventions and agreements related to the protection of children in armed conflict. Armed groups must also respect the child protection standards within international law regarding the rights and protection of children in armed conflict.

3. **Increase Accountability and End Impunity:** States should implement their international obligations to end impunity and to hold accountable perpetrators of violations of international human rights and humanitarian law. States should ensure that effective accountability mechanisms are in place at the national, regional and international level. In particular, we recognize the historical significance of the establishment of the International Criminal Court to ending impunity for perpetrators of certain crimes committed against children, as defined in the *Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court* (art. 8), *inter alia* those involving sexual violence or child soldiers, and thus to the prevention of such crimes, and we encourage States to consider signing and ratifying the *Rome Statute*.

   The international community, through the media and other appropriate mechanisms, must mobilize international opinion and action against the abuses of children's rights during armed conflicts, and, bearing in mind states' primary responsibility, must ensure that those who violate children's rights in situations of armed conflict, or collude in such violations, are identified and brought to justice for their actions. An environment of accountability also demands a commitment to the monitoring, reporting and prosecution of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and other egregious crimes perpetrated against children.

4. **End Targeting of Children:** The international community condemns the killing, maiming, torture, rape, sexual exploitation, abduction, forced labour and other violations of the rights of the child in pre-conflict, conflict and post-conflict situations, taking into account the particular vulnerabilities of girls. We also condemn the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict in violation of international law, attacks on protected places that usually have a significant presence of children, such as schools, hospitals and homes,

and the military use of these places. We must strengthen efforts to end all these practices. All peacekeeping missions should receive child-sensitive training and include child protection advisors or units to safeguard the rights of children. Whenever sanctions are imposed in the context of armed conflict, their impact on children should be assessed and monitored and, to the extent that there are humanitarian exemptions, they should be child-focussed and formulated with clear guidelines for their application.

5. **Release Abducted Children:** States, international and regional organizations, NGOs, community leaders, the private sector, families and youth must pressure parties to armed conflict, and those who fund and support them, to unconditionally release all abducted children into safe custody. We demand and are committed to ensuring that these girls and boys are returned, rehabilitated, (re)integrated and reunited with their families. We demand that those abducted children who have been involved in armed conflicts are also disarmed and demobilized.

6. **Strengthen Humanitarian Assistance and Guarantee Access:** Full, safe and unhindered humanitarian access and the delivery of humanitarian assistance in conformity with international humanitarian law to all children affected by armed conflict in all regions must be ensured regardless of sex, race, religion, ethnicity, nationality or political affiliation. Such humanitarian assistance must include the provision of basic social services, in particular, food, nutrition, health and education, during and post-conflict.

7. **Focus on Prevention:** States, international and regional organizations, NGOs, community leaders, the private sector, families and youth must address, in concrete terms, the root causes of conflict, including inequity, poverty, racism, ineffective governance and impunity, which lead to the denial of children's economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights. We commit to practical and comprehensive conflict prevention measures, including conflict prevention initiatives, mediation, child protection networks, early warning and response systems, alternatives for adolescents at risk, and the promotion of conflict resolution skills and education.

8. **Suffocate the Supply of Arms:** States commit to addressing the impact of small arms and light weapons on war-affected children. We recognize that the illicit trade in natural resources and illegal drugs, and the illicit production and trafficking of small arms and light weapons have devastating effects on children. States and the private sector must also ensure that funds and facilities are not used by armed groups which target children for participation in armed conflict.

9. **Promote Health and Well-being:** Initiatives designed to help war-affected children must be developed to address all the needs of the child - mind, body and spirit. These initiatives must take into account the widely differing needs, experiences and challenges faced by girls and boys, adolescents and younger children, refugee and internally displaced children, child soldiers and orphans, children from different religious and ethnic backgrounds and children with disabilities. All children, particularly girls, must be protected from rape and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence in situations of armed conflict. The international community must work with families, local

communities, governments, civil society, including NGOs, and relevant international organizations to improve access to basic health and psycho-social rehabilitative services for girls and boys during and post-conflict. Health risks to children must also be reduced and eliminated, including malnutrition and preventable diseases.

10. **Protect Children from HIV/AIDS:** The international community must pay particular attention to the impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic on war-affected children and intensify efforts against its spread, including awareness and training.

11. **Educate and Equip for Peace:** States, international and regional organizations, NGOs and community leaders must ensure that access to education is rapidly restored, supported and strengthened during and post-conflict. Specific educational initiatives should be taken in order to empower young people to relate peaceably with one another and end violence in families and communities. Additional opportunities, such as vocational training and recreation, should also be supported to promote children's healing and well-being.

    The provisions of human rights and humanitarian law protecting children must be made widely known, in particular, through training programs for military personnel, humanitarian aid workers, peacekeepers and young people.

12. **Concerted Action over the Long-term:** The physical and psychological effects of war can debilitate the growing minds and bodies of children for many years. The international community, especially states, must coordinate long-term efforts, for war-affected girls and boys, their families and their communities, to ensure their support and protection during and post-conflict. In particular, the international community should actively support endeavours to address the devastating impact of landmines on children, through de-mining, rehabilitation of mine-affected children and landmine awareness programs. Development cooperation must be sustained, consistent and effective to support children's long-term needs for rehabilitation and (re)integration.

13. **Engage Youth:** War-affected children, particularly adolescents, should be involved in peace processes and in developing policy and programming for their own rehabilitation, (re)integration and education, as well as in the development of their communities. We must also support the creation of networks between these war-affected children and other concerned youth.

14. **Promote Better Research to Inform Our Action:** We commit to improving the quality of our research, monitoring and evaluation, giving greater emphasis to data disaggregated based on sex, age, ethnicity and region, and to disseminating the results of this work more widely.

Appendix

This Agenda for Action draws on many sub-regional, regional and international principles, obligations, resolutions and other related documents which have bearing on children and their families. They include the following:

Charter of the United Nations (1945)
Geneva Conventions (1949)
Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (1951)
Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees (1967)
Organization of African Unity Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa (1969)
Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions (1977)
Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)
African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (1990)
General Assembly Resolution 46/182 on Humanitarian Assistance (1991)
Organization of African Unity Resolution on the Plight of African Children in Situations of Armed Conflicts (1996)
Graça Machel Study on the Impact of Armed Conflict on Children (1996)
Capetown Principles and Best Practices (1997)
Red Cross/Red Crescent Plan of Action Concerning Children in Armed Conflict (1997)
Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (1997)
Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (1998)
European Parliament Resolution B4-1078 on Child Soldiers (1998)
General Assembly Resolution 53/25 on the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World (2000-2010) (1998)
Security Council Resolution 1261 on Children and Armed Conflict (1999)
Security Council Resolution 1265 on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict (1999)
ILO Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour (1999)
Maputo Declaration on the Use of Children as Soldiers (1999)
Montevideo Declaration on the Use of Children as Soldiers (1999)
Berlin Declaration on the Use of Children as Soldiers (1999)
OSCE Istanbul Summit Declaration (1999)
OSCE Charter for European Security (1999)
Declaration by Nordic Foreign Ministers Against the Use of Child Soldiers (1999)
Final Communique of Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (1999)
Moncton Declaration and Action Plan from the 8th Francophonie Summit (1999)
Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (2000)
Security Council Resolution 1296 on the Protection of Civilians (2000)
Accra Declaration on War-Affected Children (2000)
Report on the OSCE Human Dimension Seminar on Children and Armed Conflict (2000)
OAS Resolution on Children and Armed Conflicts (2000)
Windhoek Declaration and Namibia Plan of Action on Gender Mainstreaming in Multidimensional Peace Support Operations (2000)
Security Council Resolution 1296 on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict (2000)
Security Council Resolution 1314 on Children and Armed Conflict (2000)

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Security Council

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Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency

The situation in the Middle East

Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters

United Nations reform: measures and proposals

General and complete disarmament

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

Sustainable development and international economic cooperation

Environment and sustainable development

Crime prevention and criminal justice

Letter dated 5 October 2000 from the Permanent Representatives of Japan and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Joint Statement on Cooperation between the Russian Federation and Japan on International Affairs, signed at Tokyo by Mr. V. V. Putin, President of the Russian Federation, and Mr. Y. Mori, Prime Minister of Japan, on 5 September 2000 (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 14, 40, 59, 60, 73, 81, 94, 95 and 105, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yukio **Satoh**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Sergey **Lavrov**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation
to the United Nations

00-68261 (E) 181000

Annex to the letter dated 5 October 2000 from the Permanent Representatives of Japan and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Joint Statement on Cooperation between Japan and the Russian Federation on International Affairs

The Prime Minister of Japan and the President of the Russian Federation (hereinafter referred to as "both sides")

Affirming their observance of the Moscow Declaration on Establishing a Creative Partnership between Japan and the Russian Federation;

Attaching importance to the deepening of political dialogue based on trust between two countries;

Recognizing that promotion of constructive cooperation between Japan and the Russian Federation in the international arena to resolve issues in the international community is a vital aspect in building a bilateral partnership;

Declaring that such cooperation contributes to improving the predictability of the international situation and is not directed toward third countries or territories;

Affirming the importance of activating joint efforts to strengthen international peace and security based on the United Nations Charter, assuming their responsibility for the international community; and

Based on the similarity of their approaches to major international issues,

Declare as follows:

I. Global issues

1. Both sides, in the spirit of creative partnership, make common efforts to form a new world order oriented toward the prevention of armed conflicts and the peaceful resolution of such conflicts, while maintaining the diversity of different states' national, spiritual, cultural and economic values based on the principles of mutual respect, equality and reciprocal cooperation. They also cooperate with the United Nations, which plays a central role in international peace and security.

2. Both sides affirm that they maintain and strengthen further efforts by the international community toward stronger regimes for nuclear arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation, including those at the regional level, and that they continue consultations toward this objective.

Both sides welcome the adoption by the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference of the final documents including further measures for nuclear disarmament.

Both sides also support the need for the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) at the earliest date possible, and call upon those states which have either not signed or ratified the CTBT yet, particularly those whose ratification is required for the Treaty's entry into force, to do so without delay. Both sides look forward to the early entry into force and full implementation of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) II and to the conclusion of START III as soon as possible, while preserving and strengthening the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty as a cornerstone of strategic stability and as a basis for further reductions of strategic offensive weapons.

Both sides affirm that they maintain and strengthen efforts in line with the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) toward the non-proliferation of missiles and missile technology. They also recognize the need to examine and promote further multilateral measures to curb missile proliferation. In this regard, both sides strongly support the important work of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) and consider the proposal for a Global Monitoring System.

Both sides stress the importance of boosting the efficiency and effectiveness of safeguards provided by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and express their conviction that the newly introduced measures contained in the additional protocols to the safeguards agreements will improve the detection capability of the IAEA in regard to undeclared nuclear materials and nuclear activities.

Both sides work together to improve the transparency of arms transfers in order to prevent such excessive accumulation of weapons which could destabilize the region.

3. Both sides express their intention to deepen concerted actions in regard to United Nations reforms with the goal of enhancing the capacity of the United Nations to act quickly and efficiently in response to requests from and challenges facing the current world. Both sides believe that within the context of United Nations reforms, further enhancing the role and authority of the Security Council through carrying out urgent reforms based on general agreement among member countries has a special status. The Russian Federation supports permanent membership of Japan, a candidate state, in the Security Council.

Both sides affirm that they participate actively in discussion within the G8 Summit framework and contribute to the further development of cooperation among G8 members.

4. Both sides enhance dialogue and cooperation on economic development issues. Both sides share the views as to the importance of the Russian Federation's integration into the

international economic system, such as its accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO). The Government of Japan affirms its continued support for the reforms being conducted by the Russian Government, and expresses its intention to continue to actively promote technical and other forms of cooperation with Russia, including cooperation with the program on training for enterprises and the program on training public employees and executives. The Russian Federation commends and supports Japan's efforts toward overcoming the Asian financial and economic crisis as also having a positive impact on the economic situation in the Russian Federation.

5. Both sides affirm the interdependence of socioeconomic development and environmental protection, as well as the need to deepen cooperation based on consideration for environmental protection toward the global-scale implementation of sustainable development policies. Both sides share the recognition that, in this context, the United Nations could play an even more important role in coordinating assistance intended to promote the development of developing countries and the integration of countries with economies in transition into the world economy.

Both sides express their intention to work together to combat against climate change and other global environmental issues.

6. Both sides endorse the comprehensive strengthening of international cooperation to combat against all forms of terrorism, including the adoption of feasible and effective measures for the prevention, suppression and elimination of terrorism, as well as the legal impeachment of those persons involved in preparations for or the execution of terrorist actions.

Both sides welcome the adoption of the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, and affirm that this convention, together with other conventions related to the prevention of terrorism, will promote the expansion of an international legal base for cooperation related to resisting the threat of terrorism.

Both sides also welcome the finalization of the draft United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and cooperate actively toward the completion of work on the three related protocols supplementing this convention within the year 2000.

Both sides express their intention to continue their bilateral exchanges of views and other practical cooperation on combat against crime, particularly in the form of illicit trafficking in drugs and small arms and the poaching and smuggling of marine products.

II. The Asia-Pacific Region

1. Both sides place top priority on security issues in the Asia-Pacific region, including

Northeast Asia, and devote their utmost efforts to contributing constructively to confidence-enhancement and stability in the Asia-Pacific region, as well as to greater situational predictability of the region.

Both sides affirm their interest in participating more extensively in political dialogue and the economic development process in the Asia-Pacific region through multilateral frameworks.

2. Both sides express their readiness to develop exchanges of views and cooperation on a wide range of issues related to regional security, utilizing existing bilateral contact and consultations, as well as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and other possibilities for cooperation within Asia-Pacific frameworks for multilateral dialogue.

Both sides, considering that such efforts will accelerate economic development, improve the welfare level for the peoples of both countries, promote the deeper integration of the Russian Federation into the economic process of the Asia-Pacific region and the world economy, and the stability and optimization of the regional economy, express their intention to advance cooperation within the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).

Both sides highly appreciate the role played by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), ARF, APEC and other regional frameworks in developing a favorable environment for securing stability, economic development and international cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.

Japan takes note with understanding of the Russian Federation's wish to participate in Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) activities, and works with the Russian Federation to advance the process of resolving the participation issues.

3. Both sides approve the strengthening of the non-proliferation regime for weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, and support the continuation of consultations between ASEAN and the nuclear powers toward the signature of the Protocol to the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty. Both sides note that nuclear weapon free zones may contribute to strengthening the NPT regime and achieving the goal of a nuclear-free world.

4. Both sides share an awareness of the importance of reducing tension on the Korean Peninsula, and confirm their shared view that further progress in dialogue between the Republic of Korea and North Korea is desirable to this end. From this perspective, they welcome the results of the Inter-Korean Summit held in June 2000.

III. Regional Issues

1. In regard to the Middle East peace process, both sides affirm their support for every effort

to achieve a just, firm and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, as well as the principles of the Madrid Conference, including the formula of "land for peace."

Both sides express their strong support for progress in the peace process along all the negotiation tracks, including the multilateral track aimed at enhancing stability and promoting cooperation in the Middle East.

2. In regard to Central Asia, both sides place top priority on improving the level of safety and stability in the Asian region, and support the idea of creating a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia, as well as efforts by countries in the region toward national, regional and world security.

In Tokyo, 5 September, 2000.

(*Signed*) Yoshiro Mori
Prime Minister of Japan

(*Signed*) Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin
President of the Russian Federation

United Nations A/55/468-S/2000/975

General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 18
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

Identical letters dated 9 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

In anticipation of the Security Council's consideration, at the end of this month, of the question of Western Sahara and the renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), I should like to recall the unwavering position of Algeria, an observer State to the implementation of the settlement plan, concerning the just and definitive resolution of this question.

1. Algeria is firmly convinced that the settlement plan that was accepted by the two parties, the Kingdom of Morocco and the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y del Río de Oro (Frente POLISARIO), on 30 August 1988, approved by the Security Council in its resolutions 658 (1990) of 27 June 1990 and 690 (1991) of 29 April 1991 and unanimously supported by the international community, is and remains the only framework for a just and definitive settlement of the conflict between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Frente POLISARIO, which has continued for over 25 years.

The validity of the settlement plan and the correctness of the steps taken by the United Nations were, moreover, strongly reaffirmed on 3 October 2000 by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) in a draft resolution submitted by the Chairman and adopted by consensus.

2. Today, as in the past, Algeria remains fully prepared to make its contribution to the just and definitive settlement of this conflict, which can only be achieved through the faithful and full implementation of the settlement plan, the Houston agreements and the detailed modalities that have been accepted by the two parties for the implementation of the Secretary-General's measures relating to the identification of voters and the appeals process.

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In this context, Algeria will continue to give its full support to the efforts of the Secretary-General, his Personal Envoy and his Special Representative to organize, in cooperation with the Organization of African Unity, a referendum for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara that is impartial and free of all constraints.

3. Algeria attaches the greatest importance to the full cooperation of the two parties with the Secretary-General, his Personal Envoy and his Special Representative and calls upon them to continue to cooperate with a view to implementing the various phases of the settlement plan and overcoming the remaining obstacles to the implementation of the plan.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 18, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Abdallah **Baali**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2000/976

Security Council

Distr.: General
10 October 2000

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission of Observers in Prevlaka

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 1307 (2000) of 13 July 2000, by which the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Prevlaka (UNMOP) until 15 January 2001 and requested me to report to it by 15 October 2000. The present report covers developments since my most recent report on UNMOP of 3 July 2000 (S/2000/647).

2. UNMOP currently consists of 27 United Nations military observers (see annex), headed by a Chief Military Observer, Colonel Graeme Williams (New Zealand).

3. In accordance with its mandate, UNMOP continues to monitor the demilitarization of the Prevlaka peninsula and of the neighbouring areas in Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. It conducts vehicle, foot and standing patrols, except when restrictions of movement are imposed by the parties. The Mission continues to hold regular meetings with the local authorities in order to strengthen liaison, reduce tension, improve safety and security and promote confidence between the parties. The Chief Military Observer also maintains contact with the authorities in Zagreb and Belgrade in order to address issues arising from the implementation of resolution 1307 (2000). Cooperation between UNMOP and the multinational Stabilization Force (SFOR) is maintained through regular meetings.

II. Situation in the area of responsibility of the Mission

4. Since the submission of my most recent report, the situation in the UNMOP area of responsibility has remained calm and stable. UNMOP continues to maintain its 24-hour presence at the team site on the Ostra peninsula, at Herceg Novi in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Montenegro) and at the headquarters at Cavtat and the team site at Gruda in Croatia.

5. The area of responsibility of UNMOP and the designation of the demilitarized and United Nations-controlled zones remain as previously reported. UNMOP maintains the interpretation of the limits of the United Nations-designated zones as defined in reports of the Secretary-General to the Security Council since 1992, regardless of unilateral decisions by one party or the other not to respect the United Nations-mandated security regime. In accordance with its mandate, UNMOP has continued to protest violations of both the demilitarized zone and the United Nations-controlled zone to the authorities in Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, including the Republic of Montenegro, in order to encourage greater respect for the security regime governing the zones.

6. During the reporting period, neither Croatia nor the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has carried out any demining activities in the UNMOP area of responsibility. As a result, the situation of identified minefields in the area remains unchanged.

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Demilitarized zone

7. The demilitarized zone remains calm and stable. In accordance with the security regime, police forces of the parties maintain control of the zone; these are, on the Croatian side, the Special Police and, on the Yugoslav side, the Montenegrin Border Police and Special Police. With few exceptions, the demilitarized zone has been respected by both parties during the reporting period. Occasional minor violations have been protested by UNMOP to the respective authorities.

8. On 23 September 2000, on the eve of the elections in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, a squad of seven Yugoslav Army soldiers was observed in Herceg Novi, guarding a municipal building situated within the demilitarized zone. On the same day, the Montenegrin police deployed an anti-aircraft weapon at Debeli Brijeg on the border between Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Montenegro), also within the demilitarized zone. UNMOP protested both violations to the respective authorities. The Yugoslav Army personnel were withdrawn early on 24 September 2000. As at the time of writing, the heavy weapon installed by the Montenegrin police remains in position at Debeli Brijeg.

9. As previously reported, the United Nations military observers enjoy unrestricted freedom of movement on the Yugoslav side of the demilitarized zone. On the Croatian side, the authorities continue to require UNMOP to provide advance written notice before undertaking foot or vehicle patrols in the northern part of the zone.

10. The crossing point at Debeli Brijeg remains open on a 24-hour basis, allowing the movement of civilians and commercial traffic between Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Montenegro).

United Nations-controlled zone

11. The long-standing violations of the security regime in the United Nations-controlled zone remain unchanged. Approximately 25 Croatian Special Police are located at three positions and approximately 10 Yugoslav (Montenegrin) Border Police at present at two positions inside that zone. The Croatian Special Police conduct foot and vehicle patrols throughout the part of the zone accessible to them.

12. The presence of manned checkpoints of both Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Montenegro) for the purpose of operating a crossing regime at Cape Kobila continues to violate the security regime in the zone. These checkpoints, which are staffed on a 24-hour basis, permit the passage of civilians between Croatia and Montenegro during specified hours (currently four hours per day). UNMOP observers continue to report that the number of persons passing through the Cape Kobila checkpoints remains negligible in comparison with the number of those using the crossing points at Debeli Brijeg. In the period under review, no vehicles, other than UNMOP vehicles, crossed between Croatia and Montenegro at Cape Kobila.

13. While the traffic through Cape Kobila remains insignificant, both the Croatian and Montenegrin authorities continue to permit local residents to enter the United Nations-controlled zone for the purpose of crossing into Montenegro and Croatia, respectively. In addition, the Croatian authorities continue to permit civilians, including local and foreign tourists, to enter the zone for fishing and for agricultural and recreational purposes. The waters of the United Nations-controlled zone continue to be violated frequently by fishing boats and recreational boats which enter from both the Croatian and Montenegrin sides.

14. On 26 August 2000, the Croatian President and an official party entered the United Nations-controlled zone without seeking the prior authorization of the United Nations. This constituted the highest level violation of the zone recorded since the commencement of United Nations monitoring in 1992. This violation was protested.

15. The activities described above, which involve the unauthorized presence of civilians and officials from one or the other side in the United Nations-controlled zone, are violations of the agreed security regime. While they do not constitute a security threat, they nevertheless demonstrate continuing disrespect for some of the provisions of the regime freely agreed upon by the parties.

III. Progress towards a negotiated settlement

16. Both the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Croatia have indicated a willingness to resolve their dispute over Prevlaka through bilateral negotiations, pursuant to the Agreement on Normalization of Relations signed by them at Belgrade on 23 August 1996 (S/1996/706, annex). As reported previously, each Government has submitted a proposal for settling the dispute (see S/1998/533 and S/1998/632) and their negotiating teams have held four rounds of talks, the last one at Belgrade on 9 March 1999. In April 2000, Croatia invited representatives of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to attend a fifth round of discussions in Croatia at a date to be determined. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia replied to that invitation by a letter dated 8 June 2000 (see S/2000/602).

17. On 25 July 2000, Croatia forwarded to me a copy of a letter dated 10 July 2000 from the Chairman of the "Croatian Commission for a Lasting Solution to the Prevlaka Security Issue" to the Chairman of the Yugoslav "Commission for Borders", which referred to the letter dated 8 June 2000 from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (see para. 16 above). As members of the Security Council will recall, Croatia had also set out its position on the issue of Prevlaka in a joint communiqué with Montenegro dated 30 June 2000 (see S/2000/642). The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia reported its views on the state of relations with Croatia, including on the issue of Prevlaka, in a note verbale dated 4 September 2000 (see S/2000/858, annex). In a further communication dated 2 October 2000 (S/2000/954), the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia again set out its position on the negotiations with Croatia and on the solution of the dispute over Prevlaka. This correspondence continues to reflect the parties' divergent views on the nature of the dispute and the way ahead.

IV. Confidence-building measures

18. As will be recalled, pursuant to the Council's request in resolution 1252 (1999) of 15 July 1999, a package of recommendations and options for confidence-building was conveyed informally to the parties by the Secretariat in October 1999 (see S/1999/1051, para. 20). The package covered basic elements of the dispute, confidence-building measures and freedom of movement for local civilians. Consultations with the parties on the options presented for consideration have continued during the reporting period, including on demarcation of the border, regularization of the crossing points at Debeli Brijeg, introduction of a limited access regime for local civilians in the United Nations-controlled zone and replacement of the checkpoints at Cape Kobila by alternative arrangements worked out under the controlled access regime. The parties continue to favour some options but reject others, reflecting their overall divergent views on the dispute. As a result, their positions on the options package as a whole remain far apart.

V. Observations

19. The United Nations-monitored zones have remained demilitarized and free of significant incidents. Despite, however, the prevailing calm on the ground, there was no movement during the past three months towards a political settlement. Notwithstanding the continuing efforts of UNMOP, consultations on the options for confidence-building measures proposed by the Secretariat have not been followed by substantive progress. Given the continuing differences between the parties on the package of options, it is likely that further progress will have to await more favourable circumstances.

20. During the previous reporting period, Croatia's invitation to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to attend a fifth round of negotiations, together with the Yugoslav side's acceptance, had fostered the hope that the parties would find sufficient common ground for restarting their talks on the resolution of the dispute, their divergent views on the issue notwithstanding. This positive development has not, however, been followed so far by a meeting of the negotiating teams. It is to be hoped that recent developments in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the installation of a new leadership in Belgrade will now facilitate an early resumption of negotiations.

21. As observed previously (see S/2000/647, para. 24), although the opening and continued operation of the checkpoints at Cape Kobila in the United Nations-controlled zone, as opposed to the operation of the crossing points at Debeli Brijeg in the demilitarized zone, does not constitute a security threat, it is a violation of the United Nations-mandated

security regime. In order to address this anomaly, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Croatia could, at their discretion, agree to redefine the security regime. Some suggestions in this regard were put to the parties in the package of options conveyed in October 1999. UNMOP stands ready to assist in the formulation of arrangements to give effect to any agreement on this issue which the parties might reach.

22. Central to the full implementation of UNMOP's mandate is the requirement that the United Nations military observers be permitted to patrol their area of responsibility without restrictions to their freedom of movement. I therefore expect the Croatian authorities to allow the United Nations military observers unrestricted access to all areas of the demilitarized zone, with no preconditions.

23. In conclusion, I should like to commend the Chief Military Observer and the men and women of UNMOP for their continuing efforts to create conditions conducive to peace and security in their area of responsibility.

Annex

Composition and strength of the military element of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Prevlaka as at 1 October 2000

Country	Number of military observers
Argentina	1
Bangladesh	1
Belgium	1
Brazil	1
Canada	1
Czech Republic	1
Denmark	1
Egypt	1
Finland	1
Ghana	1
Indonesia	2
Ireland	1
Jordan	1
Kenya	1
Nepal	1
New Zealand	2
Nigeria	1
Norway	1
Pakistan	1
Poland	1
Portugal	1
Russian Federation	1
Sweden	1
Switzerland	1
Ukraine	1
Total	**27**

Map 4137 Rev.2 United Nations
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Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Office in Angola

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 1294 (2000) of 13 April 2000, in which the Council, inter alia, reaffirmed that a continued presence of the United Nations in Angola could contribute to the promotion of peace, national reconciliation, human rights and regional security, and extended the mandate of the United Nations Office in Angola for a period of six months until 15 October 2000. By that resolution, the Council requested me to submit to it every three months a report on developments in Angola, including recommendations about additional measures the Council might consider to promote the peace process in that country. The present report provides an update of the situation since my previous report, of 12 July 2000 (S/2000/678).

II. Political developments

2. During the period under review, the overall situation in Angola has remained unstable. The União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA) led by Jonas Savimbi has continued to carry out guerrilla activities in several localities, exacerbating the already alarming humanitarian situation. On 28 August, President José Eduardo dos Santos announced to the press that he had been informed by the general staff of the Angolan Armed Forces that about 10,000 UNITA soldiers had so far surrendered to the Government. Meanwhile, the spillover of the conflict across the borders to Zambia and Namibia has complicated relations between Angola and Zambia and has negatively affected the socio-economic and humanitarian situation in both Zambia and Namibia. However, a recent visit to Angola by the Commander of the Zambian armed forces at the invitation of the Chief of General Staff of the Angolan Armed Forces seemed to have helped to dissipate some of the misunderstandings between the two countries. Moreover, the Under-Secretary-General and Adviser for Special Assignments in Africa, Ibrahim Gambari, went on a mission to Namibia and Zambia in August to consult with senior officials and the United Nations offices there with a view to ascertaining the extent of the security, socio-economic and humanitarian problems arising from the Angolan war on the two neighbouring countries and make appropriate recommendations for responding to them.

3. Debate on whether a dialogue between the Government and UNITA should be resumed has continued. The leaders of some political parties believe that the Government is not giving serious attention to appeals from civil society, particularly the Church, for a dialogue which would include UNITA. The Minister for Territorial Administration and former head of the government delegation to the Joint Commission told the press on 19 July that UNITA should return to the peace process to complete its outstanding tasks under the Lusaka Protocol because the Government had already finished its part of the agreement.

4. A congress for peace (Pro Pace) that was convened in Luanda from 18 to 21 July brought together some 300 participants from civil society, Church groups, opposition parties, the Government and non-governmental organizations. The congress issued a communiqué articulating a message of democracy, tolerance, non-violence, human rights, dialogue and reconciliation, and called for a ceasefire as a first step towards ending the protracted civil war in Angola. The

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congress further called for the free movement of people, as well as the promotion of a national dialogue in which persons from all segments of society could participate in the search for peace and national reconciliation. Although some political groups believe that the offer made by President dos Santos to pardon Mr. Savimbi gives a window of opportunity for peace talks, the UNITA leader is alleged to have rejected it as an attempt to deflect pressure for an all-inclusive dialogue.

5. As a follow-up to the congress, the Church in Angola has been reported to be planning to meet Mr. Savimbi inside the country to seek his views on how to resolve the conflict. The Church is also seeking clearance from the Government, including security guarantees for such a meeting. In the meantime, the Secretary-General of UNITA has stated that, although his movement was ready to examine all possible ways of resolving the Angolan conflict peacefully, it would not disarm as long as mutual confidence did not exist between the two warring parties. He has also indicated acceptance by UNITA of an all-inclusive dialogue. On his part, the Secretary-General of the ruling Movimento Popular para a Libertação de Angola (MPLA) has stated that dialogue should not be misconstrued as renegotiation and has reiterated that the Government would not heed appeals for dialogue with Mr. Savimbi. The interdenominational Committee for Peace in Angola met on 31 August to begin a series of workshops on peace. During the meeting, participants examined the shortcomings of the Bicesse Accords and the Lusaka Protocol and emphasized the need for a culture of peace, tolerance and dialogue.

6. Six opposition political parties represented in Parliament, including some individual UNITA members, met in Luanda from 8 to 10 August to create a common front in preparation for the upcoming general elections, tentatively scheduled for the second half of 2001. They appealed for an immediate ceasefire to create a conducive climate for an all-inclusive dialogue. They also discussed the need for the creation of an independent electoral commission, the dissolution of Parliament at the end of its current mandate in October 2000 and the formation of a constituent assembly and a transitional government to run the country until elections are held. At a subsequent meeting on 5 September, with the participation of parties not represented in Parliament, President dos Santos was urged to organize a national debate on how to end the war in the country. The ruling MPLA has rejected any call for the dissolution of Parliament and the creation of a constituent assembly. According to its Secretary-General, the creation of a constituent assembly would be contrary to the will of the people as expressed in the 1992 elections and would lack legitimacy. With reference to a transitional government, he stated that a Government of Unity and National Reconciliation already existed and that the idea proposed had been tried after the Alvor Agreement in 1975 but had led to anarchy and civil war.

7. During a recent visit to Cabinda Province, President dos Santos indicated that dialogue could be re-established with the separatist movement, the Frente para a Libertação do Enclave de Cabinda (FLEC), as soon as there is effective peace in the country. One of the leaders of FLEC stated that there should be no linkage between the search for a solution of the Cabindan question and the conflict in the rest of Angola. Three Portuguese nationals and one Angolan captured on 24 May 2000 by FLEC are still being held hostage.

8. On 29 July, the members of the new sanctions monitoring mechanism established under Security Council resolution 1295 (2000) and chaired by Ambassador Juan Larrain visited Angola. During their stay in the country which lasted until 5 August, they met with several ministers, including those for External Relations, Defence and Geology and Mines. The experts also held useful discussions with senior officials in State corporations before travelling to other countries in southern Africa.

9. More recently, the new Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 864 (1993) concerning the situation in Angola, Ambassador Paul Heinbecker of Canada, arrived in Luanda on 21 September. During his two-day visit, Mr. Heinbecker was received by President dos Santos. He also met with the Ministers for External Affairs, Defence, Petroleum, Geology and Mines, and the Governor of the Central Bank. His consultations with senior government officials and relevant organizations were related to the situation in Angola, the impact of the sanctions against UNITA and additional measures needed to strengthen the implementation of the sanctions regime. Soon thereafter, on 30 September, my new Representative in Angola and Head of the United Nations Office in Angola, Mr. Mussagy Jeichande, arrived in Luanda to assume his duties.

III. Military situation

10. UNITA fighters were reported to have infiltrated government-controlled areas to carry out acts of sabotage. On 7 August, they attacked the locality of Catete, 60 kilometres east of the Angolan capital, killing civilians and destroying government buildings. In addition to the hit-and-run tactics against military objectives, UNITA guerrillas are reported to be carrying out ambushes and attacks on civilian convoys in desperate attempts to get food, medicine and fuel supplies.

11. Large contingents of government troops have reportedly been deployed to cities such as Benguela, Huambo, Malange and Soyo to secure important strategic installations and objectives. Nevertheless, UNITA guerrilla forces are reported to have continued to make sporadic attacks on some diamond-mining localities in the north-eastern region of the country. They have also reportedly opened a corridor in the region to move supplies from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

12. Government troops have continued their operations to pursue the rebels from the central highlands through Moxico Province in the eastern region to the border with Zambia. The Angolan Vice-Minister for Defence told Parliament recently that the strategy of the Government was to destroy the UNITA military command posts, take control of the borders and withdraw the population from areas still under UNITA control. In the meantime, government operations along the Zambian and Namibian borders have reportedly created security concerns in the two countries. In his address to the media at the end of the visit to Angola of President Laurent-Désiré Kabila, on 25 September 2000, President dos Santos said, inter alia, that he is confident that the Angolan Armed Forces will be successful in eliminating the last pockets of resistance offered by Savimbi's "armed bandits". Following a series of complaints, a delegation of Angolan Parliamentarians recently visited Namibia and decision was made to withdraw some of the Angolan troops stationed in the northern Kavango region of Namibia.

13. Even though the presence of UNITA rebels has not been reported in Cabinda Province, the Government is said to have deployed about 6,000 soldiers and police there to face the separatist threat posed by FLEC. Government sources have affirmed that regular appeals to the rebel forces of UNITA and FLEC to abandon the military option, and the promise of President dos Santos to grant them amnesty, have been bearing fruit.

IV. Human rights aspects

14. The Government has signed and ratified over 20 human rights and humanitarian law treaties. Of a total of 166 articles in the Angolan Constitution, 34 are devoted to human rights. On 25 July, the Angolan National Assembly approved the ratification of the 1997 Ottawa Convention banning the production and use of landmines. The Government has invited the United Nations, through the Human Rights Division of the United Nations Office in Angola, to contribute to its efforts to meet its legal obligations to respect the human rights of all its citizens.

15. The Human Rights Division of the United Nations Office in Angola facilitates incremental and positive changes in the human rights situation in Angola. The efforts to facilitate a change in perspective — so that human rights work is no longer seen as a clandestine activity but as a normal vehicle for positive and incremental social change — are beginning to show results. The Division works to facilitate the creation of a Government/State process and individual processes within institutions to identify human rights problems and to produce plans with concrete measurable objectives to overcome those problems.

16. During the period under review, significant actions were taken by the Government to improve the human rights situation. Salaries for magistrates were increased in an attempt to provide a dignified and appropriate remuneration. Two of nine municipal courts in Luanda began rehabilitation work with the support of the municipal administrator. A recent study by a Church group with support from the Human Rights Division in one of the largest shanty towns in Luanda confirmed that citizens turned to private vigilante justice more frequently than to accepted forms of conflict resolution such as the use of a community elder or religious authority and least frequently to the justice system. A survey of public opinion done by an Angola research institute in cooperation with the Prosecutor General's Office and a local non-governmental organization with the support of the Human Rights Division indicated that well over

65 per cent the population surveyed knew their rights but indicated a lack of confidence in the ability of government institutions to respect such rights.

17. Those results demonstrate that the justice system suffers from structural weaknesses as well as insufficient reach, credibility and capacity to respond effectively to human rights violations. Less than 5 per cent of Angola's municipalities have a fully functioning justice system including a municipal court. The Human Rights Division continued to contribute to initiatives and efforts of various actors in the Angolan justice system to improve the situation by expanding the capacity of the system to deliver justice through computerization, training and other support.

18. The human rights component of the United Nations Office in Angola, with the cooperation of the non-governmental organization Trocaire, has helped to extend the work of Angola's first public interest litigation group to four provinces in addition to Luanda. The group uses and thereby strengthens the justice system by advocating for various aggrieved individuals (for example, in respect of property and liberty rights). The Angolan Bar Association, in cooperation with the police and the Prosecutor's Office, has initiated a programme by which a law graduate will be placed in police stations in the most populous neighbourhoods of Luanda in order to strengthen respect for human rights. A few projects by Angolan non-governmental organizations and Church groups to contribute to capacity-building and improved prison conditions have also led to significant improvements.

19. Freedom of expression continues to be a controversial and complex question in Angola. Since July, the issue has been a subject of heated debate following the submission of a new draft law for public comment by the President of Angola. The draft law continues to protect the President from criticism that could be considered defamatory and enlarges the State's administrative and penal control over journalists and the media. National associations of journalists and international human rights organizations have opposed the draft law.

20. The public discussion launched by the President and the ensuing debates have opened the space for independent voices of civil society. There are other signs of a growing space for freedom of expression. The congress on ways to achieve peace (Pro Pace), organized in mid-July as an initiative of the Catholic Church, served as an arena for independent and critical contributions and opinions from civil society (see para. 4 above). During the congress, Rádio Ecclesia broadcast via short wave throughout the country. This was the first Angolan non-governmental signal to reach the entire country, with the support of the Human Rights Division and Trocaire. Every Saturday, the National Radio and Radio Ecclesia now broadcast lively discussions on issues relevant to the political life of the country, in which listeners can intervene directly. At least two radio programmes centre on questions of human rights and their exercise or defence.

21. Human rights violations related directly to the conflict have created one of the largest forced relocations: about 2.7 million persons at the end of July, with millions of others affected by the war. This has in part been caused by the use of landmines, targeting of civilians and the indiscriminate and disproportionate use of force. The number of alleged violations related to the conflict during the reporting period has been significant. UNITA attacks on civilian targets have been systematic. Notable was the alleged UNITA attack on the orphanage in the province of Huambo on 10 July, which resulted in the murder of one child and the abduction of 21 minors. There were numerous allegations of UNITA abduction of children, to use them as porters and eventually to force them into military service.

22. Alleged violations by the Angolan Armed Forces and the national police often relate to individual actions outside existing law and disciplinary rules. The threat and use of violence often accompany actions committed by State actors in violation of the law. Angola's justice institutions do not have the capacity or territorial coverage to investigate and properly respond to violations. In this context, the recent project of the armed forces to train military trainers in human rights, international humanitarian law and the rule of law in a democratic state is welcome. The project includes the reinforcement of mechanisms to follow up on reported cases of abuse. The project receives the support of the Human Rights Division.

23. A large effort will be required from the Government, with the assistance of the international community, to provide for basic rights such as health, education and access to justice. This is especially needed in areas formerly occupied by UNITA. The recently agreed staff-monitored programme of the

International Monetary Fund (IMF) provides for an audit of the revenues obtained from oil and diamond sectors and calls for a trebling of spending for health and education. The Government's poverty reduction strategy paper, now being drafted, will indicate whether this shift is to be made.

V. Humanitarian situation

24. The humanitarian situation in Angola remained serious during the reporting period. As in previous months, conflict-related displacement continued with new movements occurring in 13 provinces. The highest concentrations of new influxes were in the hard-hit Provinces of Bié, Lunda Sul and Moxico. At-risk populations experienced further deterioration in their status as inflationary pressures in the economy led to a rise in the price of basic commodities. Fluctuations in local labour and agricultural markets in some provincial capitals also led to increasing destitution. In a positive development, the Government of Angola continued to relocate populations living in unsustainable camps and transit centres to new resettlement sites. The introduction by the Government of minimum operational standards for resettlement and return, specifying both preconditions and targets, was a major step forward, establishing a clear and principled framework for future relocations.

25. In accordance with the recommendations made in the rapid assessment of critical needs, serious efforts were made to close poorly managed transit centres. At Caala, 14 of 15 transit centres were closed during August. Humanitarian agencies estimate that approximately 3,000 people are now resettled at a new site at Cassoco and 5,000 persons at Cantão Pahula. In July and August, internally displaced persons living in sub-standard shelters at Uige and Negage were relocated to more suitable areas within Uige Province. In Malange, the provincial government confirmed that 1,300 internally displaced persons currently living in unstable conditions in Camabole camp near Cambondo would be transferred to another site. In addition, two sub-standard transit centres at Malange are scheduled for closure in the near future.

26. In addition to relocations from transit centres, 14,000 displaced persons were resettled from Malange to Cangandala where they are receiving humanitarian assistance provided by agencies. In Huila Province, 1,000 displaced persons are scheduled for resettlement to areas south of Matala. In Moxico Province, local authorities are preparing to relocate populations living in camps for internally displaced persons inside Luena to safe resettlement areas within the city's security perimeter.

27. Although the pace of resettlement initiatives increased during the period, the majority of displaced populations in the country, whether living in transit centres, camps or among resident communities, do not yet have access to adequate agricultural land. Most displaced persons continue to survive through a combination of kinship exchange, petty-commodity production, selling of charcoal and firewood, food preparation and brewing. Assets, including emergency items provided by aid agencies, are routinely exchanged or sold as part of the coping strategies of the populations.

28. In line with the Government's goal to promote agricultural self-reliance, a nationwide campaign to distribute agricultural inputs for internally displaced persons with land was organized during July and August. The campaign is a humanitarian priority in view of the World Food Programme's (WFP) intention to modify its distribution strategy following the harvest of April 2001. The new WFP strategy aims to improve targeting of the most vulnerable and to support transition activities through food-for-work and other programmes.

29. Under the coordination of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), humanitarian agencies plan to provide approximately 394,000 families with agricultural inputs, including about 178,000 tons of seeds and 860,000 tool kits, during September and October. In addition, some provincial governments are making significant progress in identifying land for distribution to vulnerable populations. In Malange, for example, more than 4,580 hectares have been recently made available to 7,162 displaced families. In Moxico, more than 2,490 hectares has been allocated to 4,975 displaced families, while in Cuando Cubango, 4,000 hectares has been distributed to 3,555 families. Despite these positive steps, the food security of war-affected populations continues to be at risk owing to persistent insecurity and displacement.

30. Despite earlier problems with the WFP food pipeline, all WFP food requirements are now covered until the end of November 2000. The WFP pipeline

improved considerably in July following several commodity contributions. The number of planned beneficiaries increased by 15 per cent in August because of new influxes in Kwanza Sul, Malange and Zaire Provinces. Shortfalls continue to exist, however, for sugar and corn soya blend, both used in nutrition programmes.

31. Consistent with seasonal trends, the nutrition situation improved in several areas including Ganda, Malange, Negage and Uige. High levels of malnutrition were reported in the Dokota district of Benguela, Cambambe camp in Bengo, and areas throughout Moxico Province. The high rates are primarily due to new influxes of at-risk populations. In Cambambe, agencies reported that three to five children per day were dying during August from malnutrition, related diseases and lack of medicine. Interventions are currently hampered by a severe lack of funding.

32. The final round of the national immunization days against polio was conducted during the third week of August. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) reported that approximately 3 million children were vaccinated against the disease during the campaign. Insecurity and logistical constraints, however, prevented access to at least 40 municipalities, most located in the Provinces of Cuando Cubango, Malange, Moxico and Uige. During August, meningitis outbreaks were reported in the Provinces of Benguela and Bie. Rapid interventions and ongoing monitoring prevented the disease from reaching epidemic levels in both areas.

33. The total number of internally displaced persons reported in the country since January 1998 increased to more than 2.7 million by the end of August. Approximately 1.1 million of the internally displaced persons have been registered to receive assistance by humanitarian organizations. During the period under review, approximately 59,000 persons have been uprooted in 13 provinces, the largest movements occurring in Benguela, Bie, Lunda Sul, Huambo and Uige. In Kuito, humanitarian agencies confirmed the presence of approximately 7,000 new internally displaced persons in the city during August. Approximately 2,500 new internally displaced persons have been reported in Luena and 7,000 in Saurimo during the last two months.

34. United Nations agencies made significant efforts to assess humanitarian conditions in areas where State administration was recently restored, including Cacuso, Caliamamo, Cuvelai, Golungo Alto, Luau, Songo and Tchipompo. However, the provision of humanitarian assistance in some of these locations continues to be hampered by insecurity and limited logistics. Owing to the lack of security guarantees and threats from armed groups, populations living in unsafe areas remain out of reach for humanitarian agencies, particularly populations living along the eastern and southern borders.

35. In a major effort to improve humanitarian coverage, United Nations agencies have identified newly administered areas in 13 provinces where security assessments will be conducted as a matter of priority during the next few months. If appropriate, comprehensive humanitarian needs surveys will be undertaken by inter-agency technical teams following these security assessments. Road access remains restricted, with only coastal roads and routes within the security perimeters of major provincial cities useable by humanitarian agencies. Road links between provincial capitals remain insecure in the central and eastern parts of the country. As in previous months, more than 70 per cent of all humanitarian aid is transported by air owing to restricted surface routes. The airstrip at Kuito, where more than 120,000 people depend on humanitarian assistance to survive, remains in extremely poor condition and is likely to become unusable in the upcoming rainy season. WFP has increased warehousing capacity in the city to 6,400 tons so as to ensure that contingency stocks are available once the rains begin.

36. In a major step forward, the Government finalized a national Plan of Emergency Action with United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations. The Plan, which identifies concrete strategies for six sectors and was approved in August, is designed to form the framework for humanitarian interventions during the second half of 2000. The Plan includes a new nationwide water and sanitation emergency programme and a multifaceted programme for protection of vulnerable groups. During September, provincial emergency plans, based on the national framework and incorporating other initiatives, were supposed to have been drafted under Government leadership. These provincial plans, which will outline concrete steps for each humanitarian sector, are expected to form the basis for the 2001 consolidated inter-agency appeal.

VI. Socio-economic situation

37. The consequences of the prolonged conflict in Angola bring to the forefront many critical development problems and challenges which affect the achievement of the fundamental objectives of sustainable human development. In spite of the constraining context, assistance continued to be rendered to the Government to help it address the serious humanitarian and development crises facing the country.

38. The economy has continued to face serious macroeconomic instability, with a 125.69 per cent accumulated inflation rate at the end of June and price variations of 7.72 per cent, implying significant erosion of the purchasing power of Angolans and greater poverty. The grave macroeconomic environment prompted the Government to reach an agreement with the World Bank and IMF on a staff-monitored programme until the end of the year, to be followed by a full structural adjustment programme.

39. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) continued to provide support to the capacity-building of government institutions, particularly the Ministry of Social Assistance and Reintegration, for the coordination of humanitarian assistance. Support also continued to be rendered to mine-action activities critical for the delivery of humanitarian assistance and especially the movement of internally displaced persons. Concern with the insufficiency of reliable and updated social and economic statistical data, particularly with regard to the war-affected populations and areas, led UNDP to commission studies focusing on aspects fundamental for the achievement of the goal of sustainable human development, namely the impact of HIV/AIDS on the war-affected population, particularly the internally displaced persons; the impact of the internally displaced persons on the environment; the impact of the internally displaced persons on local government structures; and the impact of population movements on the overall structure of Angolan society. The information will be useful for strengthening the national response to the serious situation of the internally displaced persons and the definition of policies to improve the living conditions of the war-affected populations.

40. Sustained support to poverty reduction measures was reinforced through the recent UNDP commitment to collaborate closely with the World Bank to assist the Government in preparing a poverty reduction strategy paper. Poverty has become endemic, with some 78 per cent of the rural population and 40 per cent of urban dwellers living below the poverty line. The poverty reduction strategy paper, part of the staff monitored programme package, is considered by the Government to be an essential component of its policy towards poverty reduction and macroeconomic reform.

41. Gender-related activities concentrated on supporting national preparations for participation in the special session of the General Assembly held in New York in June 2000 to conduct a five-year review of the Beijing Conference. The main challenge was helping to ensure a participatory process involving a broad range of women's organizations as well as promoting collaborative dialogue between civil society and the Government, particularly the Ministry of Family and the Promotion of Women.

VII. Observations

42. As I have stated on a number of previous occasions, UNITA bears primary responsibility for the resumption of the war in Angola by its failure to comply with its commitments under the Lusaka Protocol (S/1994/1441, annex), particularly its refusal to demilitarize and to permit the extension of State administration throughout the country.

43. Despite growing pressure from civil society, particularly Church groups, for a political settlement of the conflict, fighting is continuing with devastating effects on the population. Government forces have made significant progress in eroding the conventional war capability of UNITA, which is resorting increasingly to guerrilla-type operations in many areas in the pursuit of its aim to make the country ungovernable. I am concerned that the situation appears to be entering a new phase of political and military impasse. If the present trend continues, the situation in Angola could worsen the security and humanitarian problems especially in the border regions of the neighbouring countries Namibia and Zambia and threaten further the peace and security of the subregion as a whole.

44. The quest for national reconciliation should be broad-based and seek to overcome the enmity and mistrust which has been reinforced by hostility and violence. A genuine process of national reconciliation

can be initiated and enhanced by building and developing, in partnership with civil society, the Government's institutional capacities for the promotion and protection of human rights, the provision of justice and security, and the improvement of the living conditions of the people of Angola. In this regard, I welcome the recent statement by President dos Santos that "dialogue would be pursued with those who embrace peace, recognize the legitimate authority of the country and wish to contribute to the consolidation of democracy, reconstruction and development of Angola".

45. I also welcome the encouraging signs that the Government is recognizing the need to ensure respect for human rights and that it is developing its institutional capacity to that end in cooperation with the United Nations. The newly appointed Head of the United Nations Office in Angola and my Representative in Angola, Mussagy Jeichande, assumed his duties at the end of September. Under his leadership, the Office's direct contacts with the leadership in Angola will be reactivated and the ability of the Office to implement its mandate will be enhanced.

46. Finally, despite the absence of a real breakthrough and the frustrations over the slow progress towards a peaceful resolution of the situation in Angola, the United Nations Office in Angola continues to play an essential role in providing assistance to the Government in the area of human rights capacity-building, as well as in helping to mobilize humanitarian support from the international community. Its presence also underlines the continuing commitment of the international community to the cause of peace, stability and prosperity in Angola. I would therefore like to recommend that the Security Council extend the mandate of the United Nations Office in Angola for a further six-month period, until 15 April 2001.

United Nations S/2000/978

Security Council

Distr.: General
11 October 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 11 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan on 9 October 2000 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Eldar **Kouliev**
Permanent Representative

00-68419 (E) 121000 121000

Annex to the letter dated 11 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan

In connection with the reports that have been spread by the Armenian media concerning the signing by the Government of Armenia and the "Nagorny Karabakh" occupation regime of a Memorandum on mutual cooperation in various areas of vital activity and on additions to the laws of the occupation regime relating to "local self-government" and "administrative-territorial units", the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan states that this political-historical show staged, under Armenia's protection, by the puppet "Republic of Nagorny Karabakh" as proof of its existence and "State activities" is a complete sham and a gross violation of the national legislation of Azerbaijan and of the norms and principles of international law.

Azerbaijan has never in any way recognized and does not recognize the legality of such decisions, and categorically rejects and will continue to reject any actions that consolidate the consequences of Armenia's aggression against Azerbaijan and which violate its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Republic of Azerbaijan calls upon the Republic of Armenia to renounce this illogical and dangerous practice, not to damage the current favourable atmosphere for a settlement of the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan and also, in keeping with the norms and principles of international law, to take positive steps to restore confidence and peace with Azerbaijan.

United Nations S/2000/979

Security Council

Distr.: General
12 October 2000

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Draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1291 (2000) of 24 February 2000, 1304 (2000) of 16 June 2000 and 1316 (2000) of 23 August 2000, the statement adopted by its Summit meeting of 7 September 2000 (S/PRST/2000/28), and all previous resolutions and statements of its President relating to the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Reaffirming the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and all States of the region,

Deploring the continuation of hostilities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the lack of cooperation with the United Nations, and the lack of progress on the national dialogue,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General of 21 September 2000 (S/2000/888) and its recommendations, as well as the observations contained in paragraphs 82 and 85,

Reaffirming its readiness to assist in the peace process, in particular through the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), in accordance with resolution 1291 (2000),

Expressing its deep concern at the dire consequences of the conflict for the humanitarian and human rights situations, as well as at reports of the illegal exploitation of the natural resources of the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

1. *Decides* to extend the mandate of MONUC until 15 December 2000;

2. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

00-68752 (E) 131000

United Nations A/55/470–S/2000/980

General Assembly
Security Council

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11 October 2000

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General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 40
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

Letter dated 11 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Since the Madrid Peace Conference in 1991 and the Oslo agreements, Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) have reached a series of agreements in an effort to bring to a conclusion decades of enmity and conflict. A key aspect of the agreements was the concept of peaceful, non-violent negotiations as the only acceptable method of resolving the conflict. To this end, the agreements included efforts to build trust, reduce tension and develop a relationship of cooperation and coexistence between Israelis and Palestinians.

In an exchange of letters to the late Prime Minister of Israel, Yitzhak Rabin, dated 9 September 1993, Chairman Yasser Arafat wrote: "the PLO commits itself to the Middle East Peace Process and to a peaceful resolution of the conflict between the two sides and declares that outstanding issues relating to permanent status will be resolved through negotiations ... the PLO renounces the use of terrorism and other acts of violence and we assume responsibility over all PLO elements and personnel in order to assure their compliance, prevent violations, and discipline violators."

During the course of the violence, incitement and rioting in the West Bank and Gaza over the past days, the Palestinian leadership has continually violated this central concept of peaceful resolution of disputes and has breached explicit agreement between the two sides in an egregious and aggressive effort to bring the peace process to a close. These violations constitute a grave and serious threat to international peace and security. The Palestinians have openly rejected vital terms of agreements reached between the sides and have directly encouraged violent action as a method of achieving political goals.

The following are a number of central violations of these agreements which have served to exacerbate tensions and violence in the region.

Incitement: Speeches of Palestinian leadership, broadcasts on Palestinian television and radio and sermons by religious leaders have consistently called for an abandonment of the peace process with Israel and constitute a direct and gross incitement to individual and mob violence.

00-68401 (E) 111000

Actions of mob violence: Mobs and armed militia together with Palestinian police forces have been attacking Israeli soldiers and individual civilians, including women and children, by throwing rocks and Molotov cocktails, and firing automatic rifles and other weapons. The violence has continued in a variety of locations and included the use of weapons supplied as part of the Oslo Peace Process for the express purpose of maintaining public order and internal security.

Hamas terrorists: In recent days, the Palestinian Authority (PA) has released convicted terrorists from its prisons. Many of these terrorists were convicted by Palestinian courts of the murdering and maiming of innocent Israeli civilians. All were sentenced to extended prison sentences. In the most recent PA Cabinet meeting, the Hamas and Jihad Islami terrorist organizations were invited to participate — an action which sends an additional signal to the peoples of the region of the Palestinian rejection of the peace process.

Desecration of religious sites: As detailed in my letter of 8 October 2000, the attacks upon the Tomb of Joseph in Nablus on 7 October 2000 were a blatant violation of an agreement reached only one day earlier and a gross sacrilege of an ancient site, holy to the people of Israel and Jews throughout the world.

Israel appeals to the international community to call upon the Palestinian leadership to comply with agreements it has signed, to immediately cease the incitement and mob violence against Israel and to return to the negotiating process.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 40, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yehuda **Lancry**
Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations